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International Comparative Criminal Justice Project

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International Comparative Criminal Justice Project

Team Learning Across the Atlantic

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY
**LEARNING
SHOWCASE**
A DAY OF DISCOVERY

Introduction

Dr. Phil Johnson of Blackburn College in Blackburn, UK collaborated with **Dr. Jonathan McCombs** of Franklin University in Columbus, OH to create, plan, and operationalize this innovative student experience over two consecutive years with positive survey results from students.

Research Questions-

1. What are the attitudes of criminology/criminal justice students toward international criminal justice and criminal laws?
2. What are the attitudes of criminology/criminal justice laws and issues around use of force?

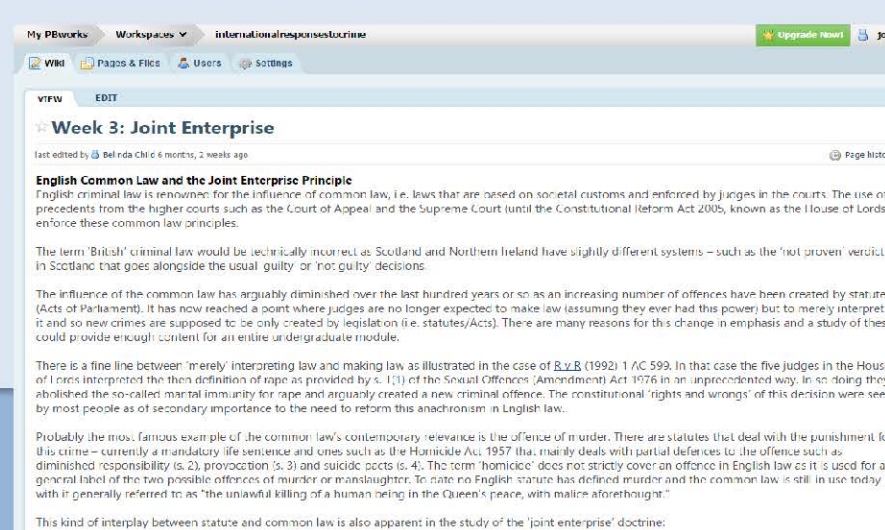
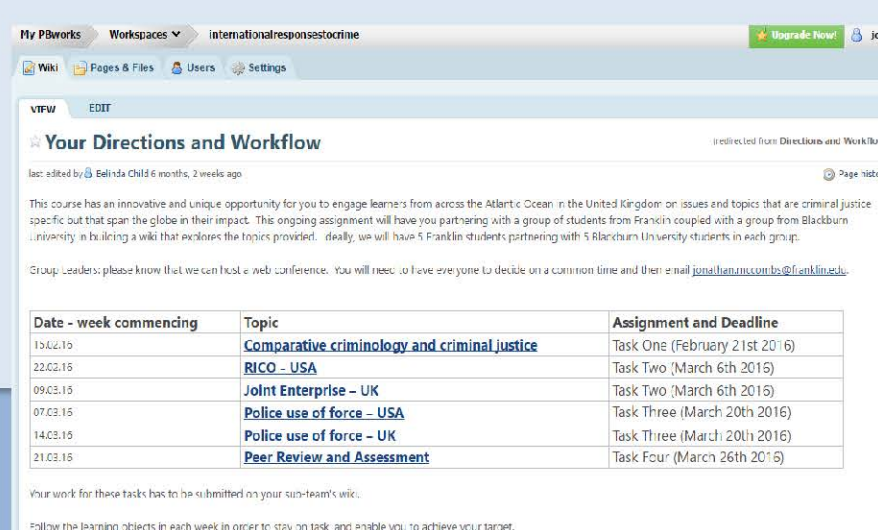
Terms

- Online Web Conferencing (RingCentral, Adobe Connect, or Skype)
- Wiki site- Pbworks.com (open source wiki platform)
- Video Orientation and Instructions via YouTube

I was already interested in the subject matter, but the assignments we were tasked with led me to do a lot more research on criminal justice, which led to a lot of “ah ha” moments and learning about things I didn’t know of before. Working with the UK group was also eye opening. I knew every country had their own laws and approach to criminal justice, but I didn’t realize just how vastly different the United States is in this manner (USA Student, 2015-16).

Methods

- Approximately 40 Blackburn students were randomly teamed with about 20 Franklin students to create 6 teams of 10 students. (Run A, 2015- Run B, 2016)
- Each team was provided a method for meeting via web-conference or they could converse through a discussion forum on the PBworks website.
- Each team had a Franklin team leader and a Blackburn team leader.
- The PBworks site had content developed around two topics: RICO statutes in the US versus the Joint Enterprise Law in the UK and Use of Force by law enforcement in the US versus use of force by law enforcement in the UK.
- Students were surveyed with pre- and post- surveys to understand their knowledge of UK laws and practices or USA laws and practices. IRB was obtained through Franklin University.
- Students were provided assignments that included questions that could be answered from the content and additional research.
- Students were assigned to creating a PBworks page that answered questions, provided creativity, and informed others what they had learned.



Hypothesis and Results

Hypothesis

1. Students would appreciate the differences and the similarities between the countries with respect to each of the topics.
2. Students would increase their knowledge of foreign laws and criminal justice related practices.
3. The team approach would be challenging but valuable to student learning.

Results

Blackburn (UK)		
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Rate your knowledge and understanding Of the US legal system, laws, and police practices	2.22	2.96
How would you rate the value of learning about Other countries' criminal justice system?	2.91	3.28
How would you rate the Blackburn-Franklin International Project Overall?		
	10.34% Outstanding Experience	
	68.97% Good Experience	
	13.79% Neutral	
Franklin (USA)		
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Rate your knowledge and understanding Of the UK legal system, laws, and police practices	1.62	3.22
How would you rate the value of learning about Other countries' criminal justice system?	2.89	3.32
How would you rate the Blackburn-Franklin International Project Overall?		
	5.26% Outstanding Experience	
	42.11% Good Experience	
	15.79% Neutral	

Discussion

The high level of collaboration between universities allowed this project to be a success for the students and for learning. Limitations such as the 5 hour time difference were challenging but not insurmountable. The usefulness of online and collaborative projects of this sort can effectively substitute for study-abroad activities that are often not available to older adult students that might have families and jobs. In future runs of the project we hope to extend the semester to an entire course instead of being part of a course.



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